

DEFEATED BY BOERS

British Force Under Clements Compelled to Abandon Its Position.

SEVERAL OFFICERS ARE KILLED

Commandant Delarey Wins Signal Advantage at Nootgedacht—Kitchener's Failure to Make Defensive Mention Creates Alarm in London.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—Lord Kitchener reports that after severe fighting at Nootgedacht, General Clements' forces were compelled to retire by Commandant Delarey with a force of 2,500 men. Four British officers were killed. The other casualties were not reported.

Lord Kitchener's official dispatch to the War office is as follows: "PRETORIA, Dec. 13.—Clements' force at Nootgedacht, on the Magaliesburg, was attacked at dawn today by Delarey, reinforced by Bever's commando from War Bath, making a force estimated at 2,500. Though the first attack was repulsed, the Boers managed to get atop of the Magaliesburg, which was held by four companies of the Northumberland Fusiliers and was thus able to command Clements' camp. He retired on Hokpoort and took up a position on a hill in the center of the valley.

"The casualties have not been reported but the fighting was very severe, and I deeply regret that Colonel Lane of the Twentieth Hussars and Captains McClean, Murdoch and Atkins were killed. Reinforcements have left here."

Lord Kitchener also reports that the Boers made an attack and were repulsed at Lichtenburg, and that General Letemmer was killed. Attacks upon Bethlehem and Verebe were also repulsed, the Boers losing ten killed and fourteen wounded. Fryheld was attacked December 11. Sniping continued when the message was dispatched.

The scenes at the War office today recall those witnessed in the early stages of the war. A constant stream of excited people filed the lobby, all seeking details of the disaster. The absence of the names of any of the officers of the Northumberland Fusiliers in General Kitchener's dispatch leads to the forbidding that the four companies of the Fusiliers mentioned are in the hands of the Boers. The War office officials evidently expect a heavy casualty list, but they are hopeful from the fact that the dispatch does not mention the capture of the Northumberlands, that such a great catastrophe has been escaped.

Orders were issued at Aldershot, Malta and other military centers to dispatch all the available mounted infantry to South Africa.

It is reported that General Knox, co-operating with the British column at Redersburg, has stopped. General Dewet and that a battle is proceeding. The report adds that many of General Dewet's followers have been captured.

JOHANNESBURG, Dec. 14.—3:25 p. m.—The battle still continues in the hills a few miles from Krugersdorp. General Clements has asked for reinforcements, and mounted men, under General French, have already gone.

There have been many casualties on both sides.

It is estimated that the Boers number 2,800.

ALL READY FOR THE SIGNING.

Latest Advances Are That Ministers May Subscribe to Agreement.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—The latest advances from Pekin, from official sources, is that England has signified a willingness to sign the agreement reached by the foreign ministers with a slight amendment which is said to be further in the nature of a more change in form, rather than an amendment of the scope of the agreement at any material point. It was the undertaking that England was the only power that was holding back, and as, according to the advices received here, the slight changes made, or proposed to be made, by England, do not conflict with any of the principles held out for by our government, from the point of view of the State department there seems to be no substantial obstacle to an almost immediate closure of the negotiations concerning the preliminary agreement.

Mr. Conger's last advices to the State department indicated very clearly that the German minister at Pekin, Mumm von Schwarzenstein, was living up to the spirit of the promise of the German government to abate its demands for the imposition of the death penalty upon Princess Tuan and Thwang, Duke Ian and other Boxer ring-leaders. It was upon this very point that the United States made the issue with Germany and England and was said to have prevailed, so that if any demand is still made by Germany in the line indicated, it is contrary to Mr. Conger's reports and would be distinctly a surprise to the State department here. Therefore, the officials are fully prepared to hear at almost any moment that the plenipotentiaries at Pekin have signed the agreement and that the latter had been laid before Prince Ching and Li Hung Chang.

COVER THE BRITISH FLAG.

Unfortunate Incident in Connection With Centennial Celebration.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—In connection with the decoration of the house of representatives yesterday, considerable discussion was aroused by the omission of certain flags in the scheme of decoration. In the original plans, the British, German, French, Russian and other flags were draped about the chamber. But through a misunderstanding of officials it was thought that the British flag was the only one displayed, and, in order that no invidious distinction should be shown, a piece of bunting was placed over this flag, thus omitting it from the general plan, while the other national flags remained. Although the incident caused some comment, it was dismissed by the officials, as wholly unimportant and due to a misunderstanding.

DE ARMOND WANTS TO KNOW.

Asks for Report on Chaffee-Von Waldsee Affair.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—Representative DeArmond of Missouri introduced a resolution requesting the secretary of war for information as to what, if any, protest, objection, criticism or suggestion General Chaffee or any other American officer in China made or offered concerning looting or other action or conduct deemed inhumane, dishonest, disgraceful or improper; to whom directed or addressed, and on account of what facts or information, and how received or replied to, and with what result; and what, if anything, the war department did or suggested to General Chaffee or other officers, or directed to be said or done in reference thereto.

This resolution refers to the reported incident between General Chaffee and Count von Waldsee.

FOR ABROGATION OF TREATY.

A Resolution on the Clayton-Bulwer Agreement.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—Senator Money today introduced a resolution in the senate providing for the abrogation of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty by diplomatic negotiations. Following is the text of it:

Resolved, That the president of the United States be respectfully requested to consider the expediency of opening negotiations with the government of Great Britain for the abrogation of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, with assurance that such action on his part will meet with the early consent and support of the senate.

Iowa to Be Shut Out.

CHICAGO, Dec. 13.—Iowa and Minnesota will not be given an opportunity to play football against the University of Chicago next fall. That number of the teams which had been in the lead this fall would be given a place on his schedule for 1901 was announced by Coach Stagg today. The reason for Stagg's refusal to give either Iowa or Minnesota a game is that he has five other contracts for big games with the following institutions: University of Michigan, University of Wisconsin, University of Pennsylvania, Northwestern University and University of Illinois.

Disaster to British Arms.

LONDON, Dec. 14.—The Daily Express publishes a rumor of a serious disaster to the British arms. According to this report the Boers attacked the camp of General Clements in the Barberton district, capturing the camp, killing a number of British officers and taking prisoners all the British troops, including four companies of the Northumberland Fusiliers. The story is not confirmed in any quarter and is not generally believed.

Nebraska Road Dividend.

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—The St. Joseph & Grand Island Railroad company has declared a semi-annual dividend of 2 1/2 per cent on its first preferred stock. The company paid 3 per cent in 1899 and 3 per cent so far in the 1900 calendar year.

President of Switzerland.

BERNE, Dec. 14.—The vice president of the federal council, Ernest Brenner of Sale, has been elected president of Switzerland for 1901 in succession to Walter Hauser of Lucerne.

BUILDING OF A CANAL

Senate Adopts Davis' Amendment to Hay-Pauncefote Treaty.

DEBATED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

Right of United States to Use Force for Order and Defense Asserted—Resolution Carries by Decided Majority—Elkins Against Foreign Interference.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—In accordance with previous agreement the senate in executive session took a vote at 3 o'clock today on the amendment to the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, authorizing the United States to defend its interests in the canal. The senate did not close its doors until 2 o'clock, and there was left only one hour's time for discussion of provisions of the amendment. The vote was taken by yeas and nays, sixty-five yeas being cast in favor of the amendment and seventeen against it. The negative votes were as follows:

Baird, Beveridge, Frye, Foster, Mansbrough, Lindsay, Mason, McCumber, McKinney, McPherson, Morgan, Money, Stewart, Tillman, Wellington, Wolcott and Gallinger.

After the amendment offered by the committee was passed upon various other amendments received the attention of the senate for a brief time, but none of them was acted upon.

The committee amendment, which was adopted as a provision to be inserted after section 5 of article II of the treaty is as follows:

It is agreed, however, that none of the immediately foregoing conditions and stipulations in sections numbered 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this article shall apply to measures which the United States may find it necessary to take for securing by its own forces the defense of the United States and the maintenance of public order.

The amendment which probably attracted most attention was offered by Senator Elkins and is as follows:

Nothing in this treaty shall be construed to prevent the United States from acquiring sufficient security and sovereignty, or to prevent it from building, operating, maintaining, controlling and defending the said canal (referring to the proposed Nicaragua canal), or for any other purpose that the United States may deem for its best interests.

Other amendments were suggested by Senators Tillman, Allen, Moany and Thurston. Senator Thurston's suggestions provides that the United States may defend the canal and Senator Tillman's makes the committee amendment adopted by today's vote apply to all provisions of article II. This would have the effect, it is believed, of nullifying the provision of section 7 of the article providing for the fortification of the canal. Other amendments were offered striking out sections 3 and 7 of article II. Senator Tillman said that if Senator Elkins' amendment should be adopted he would not press his amendment for the modification of section 7 so as to omit provision against the fortification of the canal.

Senator Lodge, in charge of the bill, was not slow to recognize the utility of trying to secure further consideration of the treaty, as amended, during today's session, and as soon as the amendments were all submitted he moved an adjournment until tomorrow, which motion prevailed.

Cotton King Hopkins Dead.

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—Gustavus Clark Hopkins, an ex-president of the Cotton exchange, is dead. He was born February 9, 1844, in Mobile, Ala., but removed to Guilford, Conn., with his parents when he was very young. He moved to this city and in 1876 became a partner in the firm of Hopkins, Dwight & Co., cotton merchants. Mr. Hopkins became a member of the Cotton exchange October 17, 1878. He served for a number of years on the board of managers.

Pensions Bill Complete.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 14.—The pension appropriation bill was completed today by the house subcommittee on appropriations, having in charge, after a hearing from Commissioner of Pensions Evans, it carries about \$145,250,000, of which about \$144,000,000 is for pensions and the balance for administration. It will be reported to the full committee tomorrow and get before the house probably Saturday.

To Amend the Army Bill.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 14.—Senator Chandler today gave notice of an amendment he will propose to the army bill providing that all original vacancies in the army, which shall exist immediately after the passing of the act shall be filled by the selection of at least one-half of the persons to fill them among the officers of volunteer and the remainder from regular army officers.

Burlington East Mail Wrecked.

BURLINGTON, Ia., Dec. 14.—The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railway's fast mail, No. 15, which left Chicago at 9:15 o'clock last evening, was wrecked two miles west of Kirkwood early today. Fireman Shannon was killed and Engineer Samuel Dove was badly hurt. The engine jumped the track and was demolished. Two mail cars with their contents were burned. The mail clerks were not injured severely.

Not Carrying 1,500 Bodies.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 14.—The following statement was posted at the war department today: "The United States army transport Hancock arrived at San Francisco December 10, with the remains of eleven soldiers, ten of whom died en route, and one was transferred from the hospital ship Relief at Nagasaki. The report that 1,500 remains were brought over is without foundation and it is requested that this statement be given the widest circulation by the press."

THE LIVE STOCK MARKET.

Latest Quotations from South Omaha and Kansas City.

SOUTH OMAHA.
Union Stock Yards, Calif.—There was not a heavy run of cattle here today, but the market was by no means in good shape. Packers did not take hold of the fat cattle, and as a result it was late before anything was done. About all that could be sold of the market is that it was very slow and the tendency of prices was downward. The cow market was also very slow and lower. Some of the best grades of cows and heifers did not sell much different from the way they did yesterday, but as a general thing bids were lower and the market very dull. Bulls, calves, steers, etc., were none too active today, and the market was certainly no better. The feeder trade, however, was in good shape. The best grades sold readily at fully steady prices. There was not many bids for the market, but the graded heads early in the morning. There were only a few western grass cattle on sale, and the most of those were rather common in quality. The cow and heifer market was slow, and as a rule brought lower prices than the same kinds sold for yesterday. The market for beef cattle was slow on sale to amount to anything and the feeders sold at just about steady prices.

There was a fair run of hogs here and the market opened up about 2 1/2 higher and closed stronger, or mostly so higher. Early in the morning packers looked for grades of heavy and light mixed, and later they sold mostly at 4 1/2 and as high as 4 3/4 was paid. The bulk of the sales was at 4 1/2, and 4 3/4. There was not a very large quantity of sheep on sale today, and packers all wanted a few; they bought them up as fast as they came in at good strong prices. Weathers and yearlings sold largely around 4 1/2, if the quality was satisfactory, and one spring brought 4 1/2. It is safe to call the market for choice lambs on sale to make a test of the market, but buyers seem to be anxious for that class of stuff and it is safe to say that choice lambs would sell at very satisfactory prices.

FACTORY IN KANSAS CITY.

Cattle—Receipts, 4,700 head natives, 700 head Texans, 500 head calves; good to choice steers, butcher cows and feeding cows, steady; plain short fed, 3 1/2 to 4; shade lower; native steers, 4 1/2 to 5; stockers and feeders, \$3.00 to 4; butcher cows and heifers, \$2.00 to 3; canners, \$2.00 to 2.50; fat mixed, \$2.75 to 3; heavy mixed, 5.00; mixed, \$4.75 to 4.95; light, \$4.50 to 4.75; pigs, \$4.00 to 4.25.

Lambs—Receipts, 5,800 head; good to choice market, steady prices; lambs, \$5.00 to 5.50; muttons, \$3.00 to 4; stockers and feeders, \$2.50 to 3; cuts, \$2.00 to 3.

HUNG JURY IS DISCHARGED.

Judge Releases the Twelve Men Who Could Not Agree on Verdict.

ELDORADO, Kan., Dec. 15.—Jessie Morrison's trial for the murder of Mrs. G. Olin Castle, whose life she is charged with having taken because of her love for Castle, ended today at noon in a hung jury. Although the jury did not agree on a verdict, the result of their deliberations came near being an acquittal. Almost from the start and before the case had been discussed by them, nine of the jurors voted for acquittal and three for conviction, the three holding out for manslaughter in the fourth degree, the punishment for which ranges from six months in jail to two years in the penitentiary. The jurors had been out since Tuesday morning and for the last three days, realizing that they could not reach a verdict, they had waited for their discharge.

MORE GOLD NOW THAN EVER.

Production in United States Exceeds All Previous Years by \$6,590,000.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The report of the director of the mint on the gold and silver production during the calendar year 1899, shows only slight variation from the approximate figures given out early in the present year. The final figures are \$71,033,400 for gold and \$22,858,700 for silver at its average commercial value during the year. The gold product was the greatest in the history of the country, exceeding that of 1898 by \$6,590,000, and greater by \$6,650,500 than the estimated product of 1893, the record year in the working of the California placer mines. The principal gains in 1899 over 1898 were in Alaska \$2,334,500, due to the Cape Nome district; Colorado, \$2,787,500, and Utah, \$1,165,500. The silver product of the United States in 1899 was slightly greater than in 1898, being 54,764,000 ounces, against 54,728,000 ounces. The average price for silver during the year on the London quotations was 60 cents an ounce, as compared with 59 cents in 1898.

TO BE SHOT ON CHRISTMAS.

Connecticut Boy Sent on Duty in the Philippines.

SOUTHINGTON, Conn., Dec. 15.—News has reached here in the form of an official communication from General MacArthur that Linas Skinner, a former Southington boy, had been sentenced to be shot on Christmas day for sleeping at his post when on sentry duty. His father, John P. Skinner, who is 71 years of age, is nearly heartbroken by the news and has left for Washington to plead with President McKinley for his son's life.

Tombstones Will Cost More.

ROME, Dec. 15.—Representatives of Senator Redfield Proctor of Vermont arrived at Leghorn this week and are closing up a deal through Gastaldi & Co. of Genoa, representing Alexander Kouta, by which Senator Proctor takes over the entire Carrara quarries, which, with his Vermont possessions, will give the senator practical control of a large proportion of the marble output of the world. The consolidation, it is believed, will largely reduce the cost of production.

State Capital Observations.

Expressions Emulative for the Good of Republican Supremacy.

LINCOLN, Dec. 17, 1900.

One of the best moves Governor-elect Dietrich has made in the matter of political appointments is that which will remove from the pale of politics the home for the friendless at Lincoln and the industrial school for girls at Milford. Mr. Dietrich said he would, in the matter of appointments for these two institutions, follow the wish of the special advisory committee he named several weeks ago. This committee is composed of Mrs. C. H. Gere, Mrs. W. J. Bryan, Mrs. D. E. Thompson, Mrs. G. M. Lamberton and Mrs. A. J. Sawyer. Governor-elect Dietrich stated he desired these two institutions to be put outside the category of institutions that are to be regarded as spoils, and he expressed the belief that the advisory committee would be skilled enough to make the proper recommendations. Mr. Dietrich's disposition in this matter is earnest, and his determination to regard as his appointments the persons recommended by the board will come as a surprise to the members of the board himself, as formerly the board has been put in name only. Governor Dietrich's stand in this matter is to be commended, and it is an earnest that he proposes to make his administration something better than one of constant squabble at state institutions.

J. R. Hays was in Lincoln last week on business, having stopped in Lincoln on his way to Tekamah. He said he believed a general good feeling existed among the republicans of the North Platte country which had not to his knowledge developed into any hard fight for place. The northern portion of the state he said was taken unawares by the result of election and for that reason, no definite plans were on foot. He looks for this to be left till the legislature meets. None of the senatorial candidates have been through that territory and any work they may be doing is through correspondence. Mr. Hays remarked especially on the quietness of the state of politics north of the Platte. It has its share of office-seekers, but they have done nothing out of the ordinary to secure a place. Mr. McCarthy he says is after the speakership. Mr. Hays attended the convention where Mr. McCarthy was nominated and then it was said among his friends that if he was elected, he would stand an excellent show to be speaker. Mr. McCarthy has an excellent standing in the North Platte counties from his course in the legislature.

Mr. Hays was asked regarding the remarkable run he made for congress against Robinson who defeated him only 175 votes. A few figures were cited to show that the election was lost for him largely because the overwhelming majority he had to fight against gave republicans the idea that the fight was hopeless. Under the circumstances, he made a phenomenal run.

Many of Governor Dietrich's rulings are causing more or less consternation among those who desire to serve the state in some way or another, and one which hits pretty hard is his proposition that no officer or employe live in any of the state institutions except members of the immediate family. No end of trouble and scandal has been caused in the past by the housing and boarding of mothers, sisters, cousins and aunts, and in the matter of minor appointments Mr. Dietrich declines to select persons who would necessarily take them into the institutions a number of children. Unless the applicant feels he can live up to the law of not fostering relations upon the state he is not encouraged to accept. Then again, Mr. Dietrich's style of dealing with applications, Governor Holcomb used to let delegations come and sound the praises of certain anxious ones. He would then deliver a ponderous off-hand speech, take the application under advisement, when the chances were he had made up his mind about the appointment long before. Mr. Dietrich treats the whole matter as a business proposition, and in instances where his mind is made up, or where cases are hopeless, he contrives, if possible to let the interested parties know, and saves them time and money in preventing them chasing after the impossible. This is something new in handling political appointments in Nebraska, and it causes favorable comment.

Candidates for positions were thicker than fleas at the meeting of state officers last week. The corridors of the hotel where headquarters are established fairly whirled in wreaths of those who did not indulge were expressions of gloomy hue, yet they stood the ordeal like soldiers, anticipating the opportunity of a word with the powers in whose hands their destiny rested. Even a kindly look from seemed to soothe their whetted appetites. Quite a few plums were plucked and as they were announced the lucky ones looked arms with their friends and circled among the throng thoroughly content with their days hunt. Those who were rewarded for valued ability and fitness of things were: Superintendent of Beattie institution for feeble-minded youth, Dr. A. Johnson; clerks in the office of land commissioner, Miss Garber, Red Cloud; F. W. Hollingsworth, Oak; Miss Garbraith, Hebron; second bookkeeper in state treasurer's office, Henry Bauman, West Point; stenographer in same office, Miss Mary B. Watson, Grand Island; clerk in secretary of state's office, James J. Roberts, Lincoln; stenographer in auditor's office, Miss Anna B. Grisinger, Bellwood.

The committee having in charge the inaugural ball at the Lincoln auditorium January 3 believe the ball will eclipse anything of the kind ever attempted in the Capital City. It promises to be a social event which will draw not only the people of Lincoln, but from all parts of the state. The incoming and outgoing state officers will be in attendance, and also the military staff of the new governor. It is hoped that General Fitzhugh Lee and his staff will attend, as invitations have been sent to them, and if they do come it will add brilliancy to the affair. The decorations and costumes will be elaborate, and one of the most attractive features of the ball. The Union-Commercial club of Lincoln has charge of the affair, and it is expected that the people of Lincoln will be liberal in the matter of purchasing tickets. Society is on the quiver in happy anticipation of the event.

Governor-elect Dietrich called on Governor Poynter at the capitol Wednesday last week and after a conference over the work of the executive department accepted an invitation to dine with Governor Poynter at the executive mansion. Mr. Dietrich was shown over the house and the matter of maintaining the residence for the next two years was discussed. Mr. Dietrich said he would occupy apartments in the mansion and he anticipated that his private secretary, H. C. Lindsay, and family, would take charge of the house.

H. M. Eaton, who will be deputy land commissioner, is now at work in the office learning the intricacies of the position he is to fill under the new administration. Uncle Jake Wolfe's office force is giving him all the assistance possible, and extending every courtesy at their command.

The senatorial candidates are lying low these days, but they have their tentacles busy all over the state seeking what they want. The race seems to be getting more uncertain the nearer the time comes for the legislature to convene.